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RA - Salient Issues Report

Weekly Activities Report - November 30, 2001

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**REGION 8****WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2001**

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION:***SOUTH WESTERN COLORADO RESERVOIRS - CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)****MERCURY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDLs):**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will conduct a public meeting in Dolores, Colorado beginning at 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 6th. The meeting will address the findings of a final draft of the report developed by EPA for the state entitled "Technical Support Document for Mercury TMDLs in Narraguinnep and McPhee Reservoir, Colorado (August 10, 2001)". Region 8 staff will attend and help facilitate the meeting. These reservoirs were identified on the Colorado 1998 CWA 303(d) impaired waters list, based on the fish tissue advisories for mercury levels greater than 0.5 ppm. The completion of the McPhee TMDL by June 2002, is part of the settlement agreement between the State of Colorado and Earth Justice. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide information to stakeholders on issues related to the report, solicit feedback, incorporate comments into the report and describe the next steps in the mercury TMDL development process.

There has been significant media coverage of the concerns related to the mercury and its effects in these reservoirs recently. Copies of the report have been sent to State, federal and local agencies, the Southern Ute Tribe, industry representatives, EPA Regions 6 and 9, citizen groups, and other stakeholders including, *Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Congressman Scott McInness and Wayne Allard*. The report is available through hard copy and is posted on Region VIII's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/files/files.html>. Mercury air deposition and addressing the resulting contamination in streams, lakes and reservoirs is an emerging area of EPA policy. In early November, Region 8 hosted a workshop on mercury air/water interface issues which was attended by a diverse group of national and state program representatives. A R8 Communication Strategy is available for this issue.

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***WATER QUALITY NUTRIENT CRITERIA GUIDANCE:**

On November 14th, 2001, EPA's Office of Standards and Technology in the Office of Water, issued guidance to all States and Tribes regarding the development of nutrient criteria plans for surface

Montezuma Cty 81323

Mephee Reservoir - Archived

COD 983779208

Narrongunnep Reservoir COD 983779216 Archived